



COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Monday September 23 2024 – 4:00
p.m. Hickory City Hall

2ND FLOOR PLANNING DEPARTMENT FLAG CONFERENCE ROOM

Commission Members	
Lynn Sampson (Ward 1)	Sharon Crosby (At-large)
Cliff Moone (Ward 2) (Chair)	Tony Jackson (At-large)
Daria Jackson (Ward 3)	Vacant (At-large)
Delores Deal (Ward 4)	Vacant (Planning Commission)
Nancy Zagaroli (Ward 5) (Vice-Chair)	Micaela Pope (Youth Council)
Doug Dickson (Ward 6)	

----- Agenda-----

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval
4. Beautifying Hickory Recognition Project Submissions
5. Tony Jackson and Natasha Eckard report
6. Other/ Open Discussion-

Adjourn

**Community Appearance Commission
Board & Subcommittee Assignments
November 2023**

Tree Board / Beautification Awards

- Nancy Zagaroli
- Sharon Crosby
- Tony Jackson
- Delores Deal

Litter Reduction

- Daria Jackson
- Delores Deal
- Cliff Moone
- Doug Dickson

Mission Statement

*To enhance and improve the visual quality
and aesthetic characteristics of the city.*

CAC Powers and Duties

The City of Hickory holds all public meetings in accessible rooms as charged by the Hickory City Council. Special requests for accommodations should be submitted to the City Manager's Office (828-323-7412) at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

FY 2024 / 2025

Community Appearance Commission - Grant Budget

Applicant	Location	Community Appearance	City Council Approval	Paid Out	Total Investment
Scott Corby	123 13th ST SW	\$7,500.00			
Grant Totals Awarded		\$7,500.00		Total	\$0.00
FY 2024/2025 Grant Budget		\$40,000.00			
Unencumbered Funds Remaining		\$32,500.00			

Community Appearance Commission
Monday, August 26, 2024, 4:00 pm

A regular meeting of the City of Hickory's Community Appearance Commission (CAC) was held on Monday, August 26, 2024, 4:00 pm, in the Flag Conference Room at City Hall.

Members Present: Cliff Moone, Sharon Crosby, Lynn Sampson, Tony Jackson, and Delores Deal

Members Excused: none

Members Absent: Daria Jackson, Nancy Zagaroli, and Doug Dickson

Others Present: City Planner Wilson Elliott, staff liaison, and Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

Call to Order & Welcome: Cliff Moone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Agenda: Mr. Moone and members discussed the meeting agenda. Mr. Moone noted the grant applicant had been delayed. Members agreed to hear from the grant applicant as soon as he arrived, and hear a report from Tony Jackson under item #7, Other Business/Open Discussion.

Sharon Crosby moved, seconded by Tony Jackson, to approve the agenda as presented and discussed. The motion carried.

Approval of June 24, 2024 Minutes: The CRC did not meet in July. Minutes of the previous meeting held in June were distributed in advance. Members discussed a few items from the minutes in detail, as follows:

- Page 1. The minutes stated a "Beautifying Hickory" poster would be created. Mr. Moone asked the status of the poster. Mr. Elliott said he planned to meet with City communications staff tomorrow and discuss the new poster.
- Page 2. The minutes stated that only one of the two properties nominated in June had been approved, based on the Wild Birds Unlimited property having not met the recognition criteria. Members agreed they had viewed the photo provided of a flower display in front of the business, which looked artificial and was not impressive. Mr. Moone confirmed the flowers were real, not artificial. Members suggested he take a new photo and nominate the property again.
- Page 2. The minutes stated members discussed sending a recommendation to City Council regarding Hickory's recent growth and the need for more trash receptacles, etc. in downtown. Mr. Moone said members would need to discuss the recommendation further and asked Mr. Elliott to add it to the next agenda.
- Page 3. Mr. Moone said Ms. Deal had stated there was no curb at Truist Bank and the grass was growing out into the street. He asked if any action had been taken. Mr. Elliott assumed the bank is on private property, so the City does not maintain it. He will look into who owns the property.

No specific additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes were stated. Tony Jackson moved, seconded by Lynn Sampson, to approve the June 24, 2024 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

City of Hickory Murals Policy: Mr. Elliott shared information on the new Murals Policy that City staff recently added to the Land Development Code. He said all new murals on City-owned property would fall under the purview of the CAC in the future. Final details on the process and procedure are still under review; however, it should all be finalized soon.

Ms. Sampson asked if the CAC would also approve the mural artwork being proposed, and Mr. Elliott assumed they would. Mr. Moone suggested possibly the mural artwork should be reviewed, and/or approved, by the City of Hickory's Public Art Commission, with the Community Appearance Commission having only oversight for the actual placement of the mural. Discussion continued. Mr. Elliott said when the policy is finalized, additional information will be shared with members.

Consideration of Community Appearance Grant Application: Scott Corby submitted a Community Appearance Grant application for improvements to his property, National Auto Sales 1, located at 123 13th Street SW. The project includes removal of all vinyl siding and replacing it with new siding, including the trim around the windows. He has already replaced the roof, windows and doors on the property, at his own expense.

A copy of the grant application was included in the agenda packet, including quotes and current photos of the property. The total project cost is \$15,100. The applicant requested a \$7,500 grant, and provided two (2) estimates for the work listed. If the Commission moves to approve the grant at the lower of the estimates, the request would qualify for a \$7,500 grant.

Scott Corby, the applicant, was present to discuss his project and answer questions from members. He said this particular area of Hickory would soon be undergoing drastic changes, becoming a new entrance into Hickory that includes a 6-lane road, so he is very interested in improving his property's appearance.

The condition of Mr. Corby's concrete driveway was noted, which he plans to improve in the future. Members suggested he install some flowers and shrubs near the door to make his business more visually pleasing. They also suggested the large sign on the property could be improved. He appreciated their suggestions.

Mr. Corby was excused while members reviewed his grant application. They scored each criteria category on the checklist and the total score was in the "high" category, with 24 points.

Tony Jackson moved, seconded by Lynn Sampson, that the Community Appearance Commission recommends City Council approve Scott Corby's Appearance Grant application in the requested amount of \$7,500, for improvements to property located at 123 13th Street SW, based on discussion and review by members. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Corby returned and thanked members for their support. Mr. Elliott will contact him to discuss the grant contract and sending his application to City Council for their approval.

The City has provided a total grant budget of \$40,000 and \$32,500 remains through June 30, 2025.

"Beautifying Hickory" Recognition Program – Nomination Submissions: Mr. Elliott received 10 nominations for August, including photos, for nine (9) home properties and one (1) business property, the Honey-Pik near Cloninger Mill Road in Viewmont.

Members reviewed the 10 nominated properties and agreed they all met the recognition criteria.

Without objection, Mr. Moone said the nine (9) home properties and one (1) business property nominated were approved for recognition as "Beautifying Hickory" recipients for August 2024.

Mr. Moone proposed members re-consider the Wild Birds Unlimited nomination that he submitted for recognition in June. Discussion followed. He will take a more recent photo of the property and re-submit it for consideration in September.

Other Business/Open Discussion:

Report from Tony Jackson – Mr. Moone and Mr. Jackson recently met with Natasha Eckard, Director of Public Relations for Hickory City Schools. Mr. Jackson distributed his summary report from their meeting and asked members to review it.

Ms. Eckard had received approval from Superintendent Jennifer Griffin to assist the CAC in their mission, and Dr. Griffin requested they meet with Tony Cox, Director of Operations, Maintenance and Facilities. A meeting was set for Wednesday, September 11, 9:30 am at the Hickory City Schools Administration Building. Ms. Eckard plans to attend, and Mr. Moone invited all interested CAC members to attend, also. They will discuss how to recognize each participating school as a “Litter Quitter School” in the future. Mr. Jackson expects their program participation will also help create civic and school pride.

Other –

- Ms. Deal discussed the removal, or possible theft, of two (2) trash receptacles near Randolph’s Billiards in downtown. Mr. Elliott suggested City workers might be in the process of updating or replacing them.
- At a recent CAC meeting, Mr. Moone had suggested Ms. Deal should contact Assistant City Manager Rick Beasley regarding the need for more benches and trash receptacles along both the City Walk and River Walk. She recently e-mailed Brian Frazier to inquire.
- Ms. Deal asked if CAC members would be asked to assist the City of Winston-Salem this year in selecting their next group of Beautification Award recipients, but Mr. Elliott had not received a request from them. If help is needed again this year, Mr. Moone and Ms. Deal are interested in participating.
- Ms. Deal noted seeing a damaged curb and sewer cover behind The Rose business located near downtown. She also noted some of the imbedded lights in the cement need replacing and the lights under the bridge are very dim.
- Mr. Jackson plans to meet with Public Works Director Steve Miller regarding a number of issues soon. He will add Ms. Deal’s questions about the lights in downtown to his list. Mr. Moone requested Mr. Jackson also speak with Mr. Miller about an overgrown bush that is creating a sightline issue in a curve on Falling Creek Road, which has already caused one accident. It is located in the City right-of-way and needs to be addressed.
- Members discussed how to follow-up on the various “appearance issues” mentioned by members during the CAC meetings. Ms. Sampson suggested the City might send a letter to each business regarding each specific appearance issue discussed.
- Ms. Sampson suggested having an on-going “task list” of appearance tasks and other “to do” items that were discussed by members during meetings, including who agreed to follow-up on each one and the status. Members will then review the list of tasks each month and check them off on completion. At Mr. Moone’s request, Ms. Sampson agreed to prepare the list.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Cliff Moone, Chair
Community Appearance Commission

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk
City of Hickory